

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The following remarks are presented for the Examiner's review.

An interview was conducted between the Examiner, Marcos Batista, and counsel for applicant, Seongyoun Kang, on December 22, 2009.

Claim 1 is currently amended. Claims 1 and 3-4 are presently pending.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 1, 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Go (U.S. Patent No. 6,091,938) in view of Ohta (European Patent Application 1345389) further in view of Mizuta (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0211874).

During the interview, an agreement was reached that the limitations “the voice control unit continues the muting for a predetermined time period from the point in time when the first and second cabinets reach the fully open state or the fully closed state from the slide move state” and “the voice control unit releases the muting after the expiration of the predetermined time period” are not disclosed by Ohta. In particular, Ohta states that the predetermined time is a previously measured time from when the motor 111 starts to be driven to when the top lid reaches the fully open or the fully closed state (col. 6, lns. 2-8). Moreover, since the muting section 301 of Ohta stops operating when either the top lid 103 is open or a predetermined time is measured by the timer 159 in S705 (col. 9, lns. 1-7; Fig. 7), Ohta does not contemplate operating the muting section 301 after the top lid has reached a fully open or fully closed state in contrast with the claimed subject matter. Claim 1 is amended to further emphasize these distinctions.

Accordingly, since each and every limitation of claim 1 and claims depending therefrom is not disclosed or rendered obvious by the prior art, applicant respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No.: NGB-40213.

Respectfully submitted,
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